

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-391V

UNPUBLISHED

CAITLIN O'DONOGHUE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 17, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Meningococcal Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Jonathan Joseph Svitak, Shannon Law Group, Woodbridge, IL,, for Petitioner.*

*Andrew Henning, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On April 6, 2020, Caitlin O'Donoghue filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleges that that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA"), a defined Table injury, after receiving two meningococcal vaccines in her right deltoid on July 24, 2018. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 2, 14, 17. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 9, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On August 17, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$47,500.00 representing pain and suffering, and \$112.46 representing unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$47,612.46 (\$47,500.00 representing pain and suffering and \$112.46 representing unreimbursed expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

CAITLIN O'DONOGHUE,

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v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

**No. 20-391V (ECF)**  
Chief Special Master Corcoran  
SPU

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On May 9, 2022, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 38. On May 9, 2022, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration ("SIRVA"). ECF No. 39.

**I. Items of Compensation**

A. Pain and Suffering and Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$47,500.00 in pain and suffering, and \$112.46 in out-of-pocket expenses. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

## II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$47,612.46**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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